



Learning Technologies Project Bulletin

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News from NASA

Learning Technologies Channel Carries Live Launch of STS-93

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The Learning Technologies Channel, a NASA Quest project from the Ames Research Center, will broadcast live coverage of the STS-93 launch, beginning just before midnight on July 19 and ending with the launch at 00:34 EDT on July 20.



The main payload of the mission is Chandra, the most sophisticated X-ray observatory ever built. It is designed to observe X-rays from high-energy regions of the universe, such as hot gas in the remnants of exploded stars. This facility was named the Chandra X-ray Observatory in honor of the late Indian-American Nobel Laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar. Chandra also means "moon" or "luminous" in Sanskrit.

For a complete list of upcoming events on the Learning Technologies Channel, visit the site's homepage at <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/ltc>.

Nothin' but Net

New and Improved Software Makes Web Page Design and Layout Easier

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There are many kinds of software designed to help with the development of Web pages. Two of the newer and more effective programs we've employed at RSPAC are Macromedia's Dreamweaver 2 and Fireworks 2. These have proven time after time that they work—and work well.

Fireworks 2 is a graphics program designed for creating and editing Web graphics. It has layers and many of the same tools as Adobe's PhotoShop. Fireworks 2 was

developed with the assumption that everything it is used to create is for the Web. It uses a Web-safe color palette and automatically generates the HTML and JavaScript needed for interactive rollovers. Fireworks 2 makes it possible to go from design comps to completed graphics using a single program. Images can be acquired from scanners and digital cameras, or imported from other imaging programs. Once finished, files can be exported to Dreamweaver 2 or any other HTML editor. Fireworks 2 also allows the creator to optimize GIFs and JPGs while maintaining complete control over file size and image quality. Vector, bitmap, and GIF animations can be created in one complete design environment.

Using Dreamweaver 2 in combination with Fireworks 2 allows for complete and total control of the design. Since both programs are made by Macromedia, they are completely compatible. Dreamweaver 2

provides the ability to put Web sites together quickly and easily, with total control over the source HTML. It offers a site structure and links with a site map. The tool bars make it easy to add elements to the page with pre-coded objects and customized code can be added to the tool bars. Dreamweaver 2 allows the user to simultaneously edit a page and view the HTML code.

Choosing software for Web design isn't always easy—and this is just a brief overview of a couple of programs we've found useful. For more information on Fireworks 2 and Dreamweaver 2, go to www.macromedia.com.

This bulletin will also be available in Adobe Acrobat format on the Developers' Workshop Web site at: <http://developers.ivv.nasa.gov/collab/pubs/bulletin/>

News Bytes

LTP Contact List Corrections

Phyllis Griggs

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As RSPAC nears the end of its cooperative agreement, all changes to the LTP contact list will be made by Jamie Silva at Ames Research Center. The list is currently located online at <http://learn.ivv.nasa.gov/LTPMGMT>. Should you have any changes, you may contact Jamie at jsilva@mail.arc.nasa.gov.

Add Color to Your Site with Coloring Book from JavaShop

John B. Hinkle

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Need to add a little color to your LTP Web site? Try the Coloring Book, now available at JavaShop.

Children love to color, and by adding this applet to your site you can provide them with hours of enjoyment. By inserting your project's own images into the coloring

book, you will allow children to learn what your LTP group's all about—and have fun at the same time!

The Coloring Book features 20 different colors and three different drawing tools. With each image you insert, you can also add a blurb of your own text describing your image. There's no limit, so you can insert as many images and text blurbs as you wish. For more information about the Coloring Book applet, go to <http://developers.ivv.nasa.gov/tech/javashop/coloring/>.

Other JavaShop productions available to LTP groups include:

Side Scroller Applet

This applet scrolls regular and hyperlinked text horizontally.

Drop-Down Menu Applet

The drop-down menu applet provides an easy way to navigate your site.

Crossword Puzzle

All you need are the words and clues and this applet will create the puzzles for you.

The Scroller

The Scroller enables you to provide scrolling text containing HTML links.

Java Hangman

A fun and educational game for all ages.

Java Animator

A user-controlled slide show applet.

Headline Scroller

Scroll through a list of headlines.

Wordsearch

Search for hidden words from a large grid.

Line Graph

Draw a line graph to illustrate your Web articles.

Pie Chart

Like line graphs, pie charts are great for showing statistics, progress, etc.

After using any of the JavaShop productions, please let their creators know what you liked and disliked, or about features you would like to see added. Send your comments to JavaShop@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov.

LTP Support Available until November

Scott Gillespie

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Any of NASA's Learning Technologies Project groups needing technical, Web, graphics, or marketing support should submit requests for services as soon as possible.

The Remote Sensing Public Access Center (RSPAC), which provides general and specific support to all groups affiliated with LTP, has been granted a no-cost extension and will function until November 1999. Those LTP groups needing assistance are encouraged to contact RSPAC as soon as possible.

To request RSPAC support, please contact Phyllis Griggs (pgriggs@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov) or any of the RSPAC staff.

For more information about RSPAC's support services, visit <http://developers.ivv.nasa.gov/rspac/index.html>.

H & Happenings

LDAPS Ready to Unveil Investigator This Fall

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At Tufts University, the LDAPS group, through a longstanding collaboration between Tufts, National Instruments, and LEGO Dacta, has just completed edu-

cational software that will break new ground on many fronts this fall. The software will add a component called Investigator to the already successful robot programming environment ROBOLAB, allowing students to perform remote sensing and other data-logging applications in the classroom.

A paper describing the design of ROBOLAB has been submitted to the Visual End User Workshop at the Annual User Interface Software and Technology Symposium. Curriculum ideas related to ROBOLAB and the programmable LEGO brick continue to grow at the LDAPS site as well.



Highlights & Happenings (cont.)

Athena Web Site Continues to Grow

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It is gratifying to see that use of Athena continues to grow. Summing the hits from the three server logs and interpolating to fill gaps in the data record showed that the annual number of files transferred was approximately 1.9 million in 1996, 4.6 mil-

lion in 1997, 7.8 million in 1998, and 13.9 million in 1999 (extrapolated from January-May data). One result of continuing interest is that users find broken links and report them.

Repaired lessons on the Sun and solar-terrestrial relations have just been posted. This material references continually updated observations of the Sun and the space environment offered by NASA, NOAA, and others. These agencies offer large amounts of information and near-real-time data. Their Web sites on these topics have greatly expanded in the few years of their existence. As a result, the URLs of particular pages change, and users of this information must update references regularly to keep pace.

This illustrates an aspect of maintaining a Web site that has perhaps not been stressed enough. It is essential to regularly edit and update the site. It is part of the price of using such a dynamic medium and is also a cost that must be considered carefully.

If you would like to be on the LTP Bulletin mailing list, please send e-mail to Scott Gillespie at: sgillespie@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov, or write to: BDM/RSPAC, 100 University Drive, Fairmont, WV 26554. Phone: (304) 367-8324, fax: (304) 367-8211.



NASA's Learning Technologies Project (LTP) Bulletin is a monthly publication produced by the Remote Sensing Public Access Center (RSPAC). RSPAC is a cooperative project of NASA's Office of Aeronautics' High Performance Computing and Communications (HPCC) program, TRW, and West Virginia University. RSPAC is located at the NASA Software Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) facility in Fairmont, West Virginia.

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July 1999



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